

THE RIO DE JANEIRO NEWS.

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OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—28, Rua do Marquês d'Assis.
HON. HENRY W. HILLIARD,
Minister.
J. P. HARRIS-GASTRELL,
Chargé d'Affaires.
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BANQUET TO MR. HILLIARD.

A banquet was given on the evening of
the 20th inst. to Hon. Henry W. Hilliard,
American minister to Brazil, by the Brazilian
Anti-Slavery Society as a token of appreci-
ation for the service rendered to the cause
of human freedom in his late resumé of
the results of emancipation in the United
States. There was a large number of promi-
nent abolitionists present, among whom
were Deputies Nabuco, Saldanha Marinho,
Serra, Moura and Sodré, Dr. Adolpho de
Barros, Dr. Nicolão Moreira, Dr. Ferreira
de Menezes, of the *Gazeta da Tarde*, and
many others whose names our space will not
permit us to give. The banquet was a very
brilliant affair throughout, and among the
large number of anti-slavery speeches made
were many which were eloquent in behalf
of the cause of abolition and which should
find a permanent place in the records of
this movement. Our time and space will
not permit us to give even an abstract of
these speeches; we are able to reproduce no
more than Mr. Hilliard's reply to an eloquent
introduction and defense of his recent letter
on American emancipation, by the president
of the Society, Deputy Joaquim Nabuco.

MR. HILLIARD'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen:
In rising to make my acknowledgments for
the very kind words which we have just heard from
my honorable and eloquent friend, Mr. Nabuco, I
must at the same time beg you to accept my warm-
est thanks in providing this splendid banquet as a
mark of your appreciation of the sentiments ex-
pressed in my late letter in regard to emancipa-
tion in the United States.

It is not my purpose on this occasion to do more
than to speak in general terms of the immeasurable
advantages of free labor, over a system of compul-
sory and unremunerated labor. It is a great social
and economic question about which my own judg-
ment is made up and settled.

The experience of all nations teaches us, that no
people can enjoy the highest prosperity and happi-
ness attainable, where slavery exists. But I shall
not enter into an argument in support of that propo-
sition, on an occasion like this.

Allow me to say I cannot feel that I am a
stranger in Brazil. Long before I stood upon its
soil and looked out upon its beautiful scenery, for
the most heartful I have anywhere seen, I felt a
deep interest in the country. Coming from my
own country to this, it seemed to me that the United
States and Brazil were bound to each other by
strong ties; that we were really neighboring nations
dividing between us so large a part of the Ameri-
can continent, and having great interests in com-
mon which we should develop for ourselves on this
side of the Atlantic, without being disturbed by the
struggles of the states of Europe. Your country
like mine had thrown off its allegiance to a foreign
power, and asserted and maintained its right to be
free and independent.

More than this, in both countries a great system
of constitutional government had been established.
We have a day which with every recurring anni-
versary calls forth new attestations of popular rejoic-
ing, the Fourth of July; and you have yours, the Seventh
of September.

So, too, not a great while after our independence
was accomplished, we framed a constitution, and
established a national government, under which we
have advanced to the highest prosperity. You, at
an early day, adopted your constitution, under which
you have made steady progress as a nation. One of
the noblest monuments in the world adorns a beau-
tiful square in your city, in commemoration of the
date of your constitution. In both countries there
are great free governments; and both are advanc-
ing side by side to a prosperous, happy, and glori-
ous future.

In my country we feel the highest respect and
warmest regard for the Emperor of Brazil. When
he came to us as a visitor, he was everywhere wel-
comed; he travelled extensively, he saw our great
cities, our broad plains, our growing states spread-
ing from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and we ob-
served him, we were impressed with his unostenta-
tious greatness, the real majesty of the man, and
the true dignity of the sovereign. When he left
leave of our shores, he left behind him countless
numbers of friends, and we should be happy to
welcome him once more.

In the views which I expressed in my letter, as to
the results of the enfranchisement of the colored
race in the United States, I limited myself to a
statement of the happy transformation in the condi-
tion of the people in the great agricultural region
where slavery formerly existed, tested by an expe-
rience of fifteen years. As a man and an American
I rejoice that slavery no longer exists in the United
States. I confess, that I should be glad to see it
pass away from the whole world.

There are, gentlemen, certain great underlying
principles which it seems to me impossible to dis-
regard; you might as well try to disregard the laws
of nature. And in applying these great principles

we are apt to be misled if we yield too much to ex-
pediency.

Really there are some questions affecting human
society to which you cannot apply considerations of
expediency; the grand power of right asserts itself
like one of the forces of nature; it disdains to yield
to policy, and sweeps aside the obstacles that would
impede the advance of civilization.

The mariner who would guide his vessel across
the ocean, does not lean over his side to observe the
drift of the currents, they would bear him far out of
his course; nor can he always see the stars in the
heavens, clouds may overcast the sky; but in the
midst of darkness, and tempest, and the war of the
waves, he fixes his eye on the compass that tells
him his true course, the needle that trembles on its
pivot true to the power that attracts it enables him
to find his way in the pathless sea and reach the
haven of safety. So in great questions affecting the
destiny of the human race, to refuse to act because
some inconvenience might result to us from our
course, to look at the currents that drive us out of
the true course, to refuse to look at the clear, un-
swerving line of principle, is to commit a stuporous
blunder in advance. The great moral laws of the
universe always average themselves in such cases.

I would not be understood to say that the condi-
tions which affect the state of slavery in any coun-
try are to be overlooked or disregarded. Far from
it, they are to be carefully considered. To accom-
plish in the best way, and at the proper time, any
great work, we must study the proper methods
to effect our purpose. But to refuse to listen to the
teachings of history, to decline to survey the situa-
tion, to sit down with the selfish purpose to take no
step for the advancement of the happiness of our
race, lest we should suffer by the change in the so-
cial condition of those about us, is what neither the
philanthropist nor the statesman can approve.

Such a course makes one amenable to a moral
law too powerful to be resisted. It is the beautiful
expression of Hooker that "law has her seat in the
bosom of God, and her voice is the harmony of
the universe." That law is irresistible in its force;
there can be no harmony in the universe until right
prevails everywhere.

Look to history. The nations in their march
have shed a broad light upon the track of human
progress. The mighty monarchies of the East have
perished. The proud structures all over the world
that dominated over human right, have gone down.
Modern nations have asserted their force, absolute power
cannot lift its sceptre in the light of the closing
splendor of the nineteenth century. Public opinion
to-day governs the world; it is impossible to resist
it; it is making its power felt in all nations; it is
more powerful than any government on the globe;
its authority surpasses the fabled strength of Olym-
pian Jove. It follows the sun in its course, and
visits with its transforming power all places under
the whole heavens. It will accomplish the enfranchi-
sement of the whole human race.

I beg that it may be understood, I do not permit
myself to speak of the institutions of Brazil. In
asserting my belief in great principles, I limit
myself to a general statement. The application
must be made by those who have the right to con-
trol the destinies of this great country, a country
full of promise, with vast resources, and which will
yet attain the highest degree of national prosperi-
ty and happiness. The time for the enfranchisement
of the million and a half of slaves in this country
requires much and careful consideration. The ques-
tion is in the hands of wise statesmen, who will know
how to treat it in all its important relations.

As I have said already, your government is al-
magnificently organized to dispose of all questions that
affect the well being of the country. The Emperor
is known to be a great statesman, a profound stu-
dent, who has enjoyed the advantage of personal
observation of a large part of the world; your Sena-
tors are able and experienced statesmen; your
Chamber of Deputies is composed of gentlemen rep-
resenting all parts of the country with dignity and
ability, thoroughly acquainted with its condition
and its wants, and competent to dispose of all the
questions that affect its interests. You have a free
and enlightened press. It is impossible to doubt
that the important social and economic question, to
which I have referred, will be disposed of in a way
to advance the prosperity and happiness of the
country. Such a cause as you advocate, gentlemen,
must always encounter opposition. I dare say,
your great, honored, and talented statesman, Vi-
conde do Rio Branco, who has just gone down to a
grave bedeviled with the tears of a nation, found it
no easy task to accomplish his statesmanlike plan,
providing by law that afterwards promulgation no child
should be born a slave in Brazil. He encountered
opposition, but he triumphed.

There is always a distrust of the successful work-
ing of any plan which proposes to effect important
changes in the economic and social affairs of a
country. The distrust is natural; it is to be re-
spected, it is to be dealt with in the best spirit. But
it yields to the irresistible force of enlightened public
sentiment.

I am profoundly grateful, gentlemen, for this
mark of your appreciation of the sentiments ex-
pressed in my recent letter; the opinions given
with frankness upon a great question affecting the
destiny of our race and the interests of civilization,
will stand the test of time; and I feel myself hon-
ored in being able to contribute anything towards

the advancement of a cause which proposes to ac-
complish so much good for this great and interesting
country. Of course, I could not intervene in the
affairs of Brazil if I desired to do so; I entertain no
such purpose. I state the results of my observation
of the substitution of free for slave labor in my own
country, and I trust to a generous construction of
the spirit in which I have treated a great question
which excites the sympathy of the whole civilized
world. I shall in the future recur to this occasion
with an interest which time cannot chill, and cher-
ish a pleasing recollection of one of the brightest
evenings of my life.

Allow me, gentlemen, to propose a sentiment:
The spirit of liberty—it cannot be subdued; like
the central fires of the earth, sooner or later, it will
upheave everything that oppresses it and flame up
to heaven.

BRAZIL AND THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

In a speech before the Senate on the
10th instant Senator Silveira Martins, of
Rio Grande do Sul, referred to the threaten-
ing armament of the Argentine Republic
and the apathy of Brazil as follows:

There is something which to me is worth more
than direct election, than internal improvements,
than party, more than all else—it is the existence
of our country, the integrity of her territory.

We have a neighbor who is now armed to the
teeth. There are things which should not be told
because they shame us, but the telling of which
cannot be put off since no one wishes either to see
or to correct them.

The Argentine Republic has accumulated an
immense supply of war material, and the president
who has just retired from power, boasts in articles
attributed to him, that he has made his country the
first military power in South America. In their
arsenals they have 80,000 Remington rifles, they are
just now receiving 11 Krupp batteries, they have
a squadron of ironclads, torpedo boats, and in
three months can arm 100,000 men, at which I do
not wonder, as they receive thousands of immigrants
every month to whom, in emergencies and without
making a question of religion or nationality as
with ourselves, are entrusted honors and arms
for defending their new country. At their front
to-day is found a youthful president, a distinguished
general, victor of the victories won in civil war,
but ambitious of the military glory which can only
be gained in an international war contested in the
name of the country and not in that of a faction.

When a country thus considers itself prepared and
strong, the idea of trying the instrument which
it has prepared comes to it naturally, and there
will be no lack of pretexts to a people who wish
to excite war.

They say, gentlemen, that the Argentine Repub-
lic is aiming to decide the questions which are
pending with Chili, but the question with Chili
originates in an unpopulated territory in Patagonia
covered by bands of Indians, and Chili and the
Argentine Republic are separated by the immense
mountain range of the Andes. If by chance the
republic were thus inspired in these questions it
would not wait for the victory of Chili to adjust
its boundaries; it would take advantage of the
present war, while Chili is fighting with Peru and
Bolivia, to interfere, thus gaining the goal which
those two nations already defeated and partly com-
pleted. Moreover, if it be against Chili that the
Argentine Republic is preparing itself, for what
are the formidable fortifications of Martin Garcia?

Has she not in view the annexation of Paraguay
which we left unthought of, and of Uruguay where
there is an intelligent and energetic party which
looks forward to a great country and seeks the re-
construction of the ancient vice-royalty of the
Prata?

And, gentlemen, what is Paraguay aimed at
and the independence of Uruguay threatened, but a war
with this empire?

We are obliged by treaties to maintain and guar-
antee the independence of Uruguay and of Pa-
raguay. Can Brazil impassively see the breaking of
these treaties? Would not the honor of the empire
remain stained before the world for all time to come?

If she had such weakness it would augment the
audacity of her neighbors, and the war, which she
ought to avoid, would be a natural consequence
of this proceeding.

Those who know the traditions of men, see per-
fectly that the march of events can not be other-
wise; I now come to demonstrate to the Senate
that which costs me much to confess.

What have we to oppose to this numerous army
of trained soldiers, equipped with modern arms,
and commanded by General Rocca, active, brave
and ambitious of glory? An army in which reigns
the most absolute want of discipline, which has
no other battalion that merits the name, either in
command, discipline or morality.

Of the few corps of cavalry which we have, taking
out the 3rd and 4th regiments, the majority are
reduced to less than half their effective number.
We have no soldiers, nor a good law of recruitment
which attracts citizens to the army. Of our gen-
erals, except some recent bigadiers, none of them
have been in a war; and as for the illustrious sol-
dier who is now in the ministry and who could
bestow new days of glory upon his country, the

country can not count upon his health which is
known to be very precarious.

The few and decrepit battalions which we still
have under the name of an army are worth even
less than they appear; in fact they are few,
in their want of discipline they are dangerous. The
abolition of the whip without an improvement in
the personnel of the battalion has produced the
worst results. Not long ago some artillery soldiers,
at S. Sepé fought among themselves with knives
before the general in command; and now I read in
the journals that at Bagé, before the brigadier in
command of the frontier, one soldier fired at an-
other and killed him. The superior officers, and
even more, the directors of the military schools,
furnish a most fatal example. The military
schools should be as the apple of the eye to the
minister of war. Solid instruction and severe dis-
cipline; or, rather, good professors and com-
mandants in whom energy and justice are united.

On the following day the prime minister
replied to the Rio Grande senator and to
others who had called attention to the
demoralized state of the army and navy, in
the following terms:

I can not avoid taking into consideration what
the illustrious senators have said in discussing our
international relations with the South American
republics.

It is known that for some years past our govern-
ment has been almost exclusively dominated by the
desire to develop the material growth of the empire,
and to make economies that should establish an
equilibrium in our budgets without prejudice to the
improvements already begun. This purpose has
been approved in the chambers, because those
measures that did not conform to this programme
were the only ones censured.

In consequence of this internal policy our army
has been already reduced and our navy has been
renovated.

The present ministry thinks it advisable, with-
out renouncing this policy, to renew the material
of our navy, for which the credit under discussion
is a proof.

Our army, if it has not been augmented has not
been diminished, and we need a greater number of
infantry soldiers.

This was the answer given on this time the
question intended and all intent to finish.

Ought we to continue this policy? Ought we to
alter this policy? This is the question which the
discussion has raised and which I must answer.

Are the armaments of the Argentine Republic of
such a character, and so great, as to inspire us with
fear? Are those armaments made against us?

The noble senators understand that we ought to
take precautions against such a state of affairs so
that we may not be taken by surprise, and these
precautions can not be other than the increase of
our armaments, and of our sea and land forces. The
government has not yet thought it opportune to
enter upon this course because, as the noble minister
of justice has said, we maintain and hope to
maintain friendly relations with the Argentine
Republic.

The noble senator from Bahia has said: "The
Argentine Republic is aiming itself beyond measure;
and if it interferes, as it seems to desire, in the war
between the Pacific republics, and is victorious, it
will certainly dictate the law in South America."

My opinion is not the same. The Argentine
Republic is not aiming to be a warlike republic
because its statesmen are enlightened enough to
know that peace only can exist. But even if it
wished to become the first military power and
make it victorious on the Pacific, its triumphs
would destroy its finances, and when it afterwards
sought to make war upon us it would find us
stronger and richer than itself, and although the
first victories were theirs the last would belong to
us.

The ministry maintains, therefore, its policy of
peace and prudence, because it has faith in the
wisdom of the Argentine Republic and is convinced
that its armaments are not made, directly or in-
directly, against this empire.

More than once have I maintained that the best
policy for the Argentine Republic and Brazil is to
live in peace; because we have no questions which
can disturb our relations; its armaments can be
explained by the exigencies of its internal policy
and the defense of its territory.

While we do not alter our convictions, we shall
at least seek to renew the material of our navy and
to discipline our army, as our distinguished col-
league is doing in short not to weaken our military
position.

When, however, we change our opinion and find
that the illustrious senators are right, when we
understand that we ought to emulate the Argentine
Republic in its armaments, then I will come to the
legislature to ask for the means that we may want
to face all the dangers. And if the legislature is
not in session, I shall have sufficient courage as
patriotism to assume every responsibility and to
place the empire in such a position as to insure the
last victory and attain for many years that peace
which is our great aspiration.

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet, the French packet of the 15th, and Royal Mail packet of the 24th of the month.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 24TH, 1880.

The passage of Article VIII of the ministerial electoral reform project is a triumph for which Counselor Saravia and his colleagues may congratulate themselves; it is a triumph in which the whole country should rejoice. In view of the fact that it was won in a house where the ministerial party is in a minority, and where this article had been wholly eliminated from the project by a formal committee report, there were good grounds for the belief that it would not be carried and that the Senate would continue the narrow, intolerant policy against foreign born citizens and non-catholics which has thus far disgraced the empire. Thanks, however, to Counselor Saravia's determined advocacy of his project those unjust disqualifications will burden the statute books of this empire but a little while longer, for although now carried only in second reading it is quite certain that their repeal will be finally passed and become law. It is to be regretted, at the same time, that this measure was not carried by a more decisive vote than 25 to 22, not only because of the risk of reversing the decision in third reading but more particularly for the credit of the Senate itself. That so just and liberal a measure should meet with such strong opposition in the highest legislative body in Brazil is not a circumstance which can be viewed with satisfaction; it reflects no credit upon the statesmanship of a great number of prominent men, and affords but little hope for other legislation scarcely less important than the measure now under consideration. It is also clear that in the reverse of all this lies the permanent prosperity of the country. When, therefore, a large number of legislators place themselves in direct opposition to a tolerant and progressive policy of government it becomes a matter both for regret and fear. To meet the just demands of the time there must be a more enlightened policy adopted in the Senate than has yet characterized its proceedings. We shall hope to see in this victory of the present ministry the dawn of a purer and better order of things.

"Que importa a vida sem escravos?" said Deputy Martin Francisco in the Chamber on the 11th inst. The answer is simple. Without slaves life will continue to be just what men choose to make it. No one can say that the suppression of one evil will transform this earth into a paradise and this life into an ideal state of happiness and prosperity, but it can safely be said that without slaves the possibilities for gaining an honest livelihood, for attaining prosperity, for insuring justice between man and man, and for building up a more civilized and progressive state of society, will be immeasurably increased. Without slaves the era of free labor will come; the degradation of manual labor will disappear; the stimulus of personal independence and responsibility will be felt; the methods of agriculture will be improved; the productivity of the soil will be increased; immigration will come; the security and stability of business enterprise will be insured; the wealth and commerce of the country will be augmented; a source of incalculable corruption and moral decline will be swept away; justice will be done; a new future will be opened to Brazil. If all these things weigh as nothing against the inhuman institution of slavery then Deputy Martin Francisco may throw up the sponge and pronounce life not worth the living. If there is no other alternative in life than that his land shall be tilled by unwilling, unpaid hands, that his ease and wealth and position shall be purchased with the sweat and blood and life of helpless slaves, that his children

shall be reared in the midst of such abject misery and degradation and trained to the sound of clanking chains and the whistling lash, that there shall be no ties of family, no love, no hope, no justice, no mercy for those whom a cursed greed of wealth and power has reduced to a state of perpetual servitude, then life is indeed not worth the living. We are inclined to believe, however, that the São Paulo deputy has made one little mistake—the relative importance of himself and other slave holders. It is of infinitely more importance that justice shall be done and that the evil influences of slavery shall be swept away forever, than that a whole continent of such men shall continue to feed fat on ill-gotten gains, and to live in ease and luxury on the lash-driven toil of others. Life is worth the living—but only to those who work for it.

The reported cases of yellow fever on board the British corvet *Girnel* after leaving this port on the 17th September, was the subject of an official communication from the president of the board of health on the 3rd inst. The president doubts the report asserts that the sanitary state of the port has been of the best character possible ever since the month of August. Whether the report was true or not, is a matter of comparatively slight importance. The ship's surgeon reported yellow fever, and the *Girnel* went into quarantine at the River Plate for that very reason. As yellow fever is now endemic in this city, a case of it on board the *Girnel* or any other vessel where the conditions are favorable, is not a matter either for surprise or contention. As to the present health of this port we can repeat what we have before said and what the venerable president of the health board undoubtedly meant to say—that it is in a highly favorable state. The death rate for the last two or three months has been unusually low, and the absence of epidemic or virulent diseases testifies in the most favorable manner to the general health of the city. When, however, we are told that the "sanitary state" of the city is of the best possible character we must be permitted to express a dissent. Unclean streets, foul drains, scarcity of water, and the continuance of dangerous diseases can hardly be described as good sanitary conditions, and the president of the board of health must know that these evils will sooner or later bring trouble upon us. Although the city is healthy to-day, what will it be to-morrow if nothing is done to cleanse it and to suppress the many nuisances which offend public morals as well as the public health? The approach of the hot season with all its physical discomforts and its inevitable accompaniments of reduced strength and increased mortality is certainly not an event which one can contemplate from a retrospective point of view. We all know what the months of September and October were; we now want to know what the months of January, February and March are to be. For once the board of health has an excellent opportunity to do a really valuable work by taking precautionary measures against an epidemic instead of writing reports about it months after it has passed. What we want is cleaner and more decent streets, and more water; after that we shall be able to read these sententious reports with some degree of assurance and comfort.

Whatever grounds may or may not exist for an armed conflict between Brazil and the River Plate, it is clear from the discussions and preparations now going on in both countries that there are many grave fears of such an event. The continual aiming of our Platine neighbor, and that too at a time when all vestiges of the late revolution have been stamped out and the national government is stronger than ever, and at a time when her relations with all contiguous powers are friendly, this continued activity in the accumulation of ironclads and war material is certainly an unpromising augury for the future. To all outward appearances there are no indications that Brazil is the object of all these beligerent preparations. There is no question now pending between the two countries which could serve as an excuse for war, and it is difficult to conceive of any such question arising in the near future unless it be, as Senator Silveira Martins suggests, that the Argentines are preparing to absorb Paraguay and Uruguay. In such case the result can be easily predicted. It must be well known that Brazil has

guaranteed the independence of these two small states and that she is bound to protect them even to the extremity of war. Strong as may be the desire of the Brazilian government to maintain friendly relations with her powerful southern neighbor, the obligations imposed upon her by these treaties are even stronger, and were the Argentines to invade either of the two states there could be no honorable avoidance of war. In view of these contingencies there can be no question as to the policy of meeting the possible difficulty half way. As yet we see no reason for the belief that war is inevitable, but there are many reasons for the belief that the probabilities of war are becoming stronger every day. The military spirit among the Argentines is strong, and with their rapid growth in population and wealth will inevitably come the desire to measure arms with their neighbors. Then, too, in Brazil, there are very many who will not hesitate to magnify every mole hill into a mountain, as in the *Rio Apa* case, and who will cry war most vociferously on the slightest provocation. We are not inclined to take a pessimistic view of the case nor to magnify fears and boasts into positive indications of trouble, but the plain facts remain that there are extensive warlike preparations on the one side and widespread warlike talk on the other. It is impossible that two strong nations should live side by side without more or less jealousy and emulation; and it is an ever-present possibility that the rivalry existing between them may burst out into violence at any day. We do not see any injustice to the Argentines in calling attention to this fact. Whether there are any well-founded apprehensions of war, or not, the possibilities still remain, and it is against these that every just precaution should be taken. Were Brazil in a better position to resist the annexation of Uruguay and Paraguay by the Argentines, it is clear that the chances of war would be materially lessened; the very weakness of this empire furnishes the temptation. It is notorious that the Brazilian army is practically useless, that it is demoralized almost beyond all redemption. The rank and file is made up of criminals and the off-scourings of society, and they are insubordinate in the highest degree. The officers are for a great part mere carpet-baggers, who know as little of military duties and whose valor never rises above the use of the inseparable riding-whip in the brawls of the theatre. In the navy there is a very similar state of affairs. Practically Brazil has no fleet whatever suitable for war. The officers and men are not trained to their duties, as witness the *Solimões* case, and with but a few exceptions the vessels are unworthy. This state of affairs must be well known at the River Plate, and if there be any ambitious projects there, of which we have no proofs as yet, this very state of the Brazilian army and navy will serve as an encouragement for their speedy execution. In view of these facts, the interests of peace as well as of protection would seem to require the immediate reconstruction of the army and the strengthening of the navy. Brazil can ill afford to spend the money required, but the neglect of past years and the exigencies of the present leave no alternative. Even were there less danger from without, a true national policy would require the immediate execution of all these necessary reforms.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

—The Senate has been in regular session since our last report and has made fair progress with the electoral reform project. The discussion has now reached Article x in 2nd reading. The consideration of the remaining articles will undoubtedly proceed more rapidly hereafter, as the principal features of the project have now been passed. The most exciting discussion thus far, and the most important discussion as well, took place during the session between the 18th and 20th, inclusive. The subject was Article viii which had been stricken out by the Senate committee, but whose inclusion was insisted upon by the ministry. This article confers full political rights upon freedmen, foreign born citizens and non-catholics. It was finally passed on the 20th by the close vote of 23 to 22. The text of the article is as follows:

ARTICLE VIII.—Every citizen comprehended in Article II, excepting those heretofore restricted, is eligible to the position of senator, deputy in the General Assembly, member of the provincial legislative assemblies, alderman, justice of the peace, and any other created by law.
 Section I.—The conditions of eligibility are:
 For senator of the empire: he must over 40 years of age.
 For deputy of the General Assembly or member of the provincial legislative assemblies: he must be over 25 years of age, unless the elected shall have some scientific degree.
 For alderman, or justice of the peace: a resident in the municipality of at least two years.

(The citizens comprehended in Art. II, are native or naturalized Brazilians, catholics or non-catholics, free or freedmen.)

—The extraordinary credit of 5,000,000\$ to the minister of war, with an amendment appropriating 4,000,000\$ for the minister of war, passed 2nd reading on the 19th, but has not yet passed 3rd reading. An extraordinary credit to the minister of agriculture has been under discussion in 2nd reading.

—Two sessions of the Chamber have been held since our last report, in both of which the slavery question has been a principal subject of discussion. On the 15th there was an attempt made to suppress all discussion from the abolitionists, but without success. On the 22nd the pro-slavery party changed its tactics and announced its determination to meet the issue. On the latter day Deputy Morjén de Barros, of São Paulo, attacked the course of the abolitionists in circulating documents, holding public discussions and giving dinners. He also denied the right of the American minister to accept any such attention from the abolitionists. Deputy Belmonte announced his intention to interpellate the government respecting the banquet given to the American minister, and to his position respecting the anti-slavery movement. The Chamber passed the project on the 22nd authorizing the minister of agriculture to dispose of the Fernando de Noronha phosphates.

GOLD MINING.

The wonderful possibilities of gold mining in Brazil, as illustrated by the glowing reports given from time to time, to say nothing of the grave statements sometimes discovered in official publications such as international exhibition reports, are apt to unduly fire the imagination and to lead to a highly erroneous opinion that Brazilian mines now excel even those of California and Australia.

It is undoubtedly true that there is a good round sum of the precious metal lying around loose throughout the interior, but it has not yet been discovered growing on trees since the good old colonial times when the Portuguese used to knock down *poiteiros* with long poles, nor has it yet been successfully extracted with prospectuses. To be sure a process has been discovered at Pernambuco for transforming copper into gold, but as the young philosopher who made the discovery has not yet begun the manufacture and as there seems to be a sudden scarcity of copper mines, the full effects of the discovery are yet to be experienced. We are informed also that there are mines in Minas, the rock from which yields 3,329 pounds 11 ounces of refined gold per ton, about three hundred days of the year. As these wonderful mines refuse to produce gold on Sundays and church holidays, their proprietors are enabled to attend church regularly and to read the *Apostolo*. There is also said to be an extensive tract of territory in Goyaz where nuggets are so plentiful that they are used to throw at the dogs, from which undoubtedly arose that comforting old remembrance about throwing money to the dogs.

Notwithstanding all these facts and reports we are inclined to believe that California still leads the van in the extent and variety of her mineral resources. What Brazil may yet do we can not say, but as yet there is no concession on record for extracting gold from a Minas wind or from a Goyaz spring, from which we infer that those promising fields have not yet been explored. For the benefit of those who may wish to investigate the matter we append herewith the report of a well-known American expert, whose experience in mining is only excelled by the clearness and facility with which he places the facts before the public.

To the Editors of the Evening Post:

I have just seen your despatch from San Francisco, in Saturday's *Evening Post*, about "Gold in Solution" in the Calistoga Springs, and about the proprietor's having "extracted \$1,000 in gold of the utmost fineness from ten barrels of the water" during the past fortnight, by a process known only to himself. This will surprise many of your readers, but it does not surprise me, for I once owned those springs myself. What does surprise me, however, is the falling off in the richness of the water. In my time the yield was a dollar a dipperful. I am not saying this to injure the property, in case a sale is contemplated; I am only saying it in the interest of history. It may be that this hotel proprietor's process in an inferior one—yes, that may be the fault. Mine was to take my uncle—I had an extra uncle at that time, on account of his parents dying and leaving him on my hands—and fill him up, and let him stand fifteen minutes to give the water a chance to settle well, then insert him in a exhausted receiver, which had the effect of sucking the gold out through his pores. I have taken more than eleven thousand dollars out of that old man in a day and a half. I should have held on to those springs but for the badness of the roads and the difficulty of getting the gold to market.

I consider that gold-yielding water in many respects remarkable; and yet not more remarkable than the gold-bearing air of Calicut Canon, up there toward the head of the auriferous range. This air

—or this wind—for it is a kind of a trade wind which blows steadily down through six hundred miles of rich quartz croppings an hour and a quarter every day except Sundays, is heavily charged with exquisitely fine and impalpable gold. Nothing precipitates and solidifies this gold so readily as contact with human flesh heated by passion. The time that William Abrahams was disappointed in love, he used to step out doors when that wind was blowing, and come in again and begin to sigh, and his brother Andover J. would extract over a dollar and a half out of every sigh he sighed, right along. And the time that John Harrison and Aleck Norton quarrelled about Harrison's dog, they stood there swearing at each other all they knew how—and what they didn't know about swearing they couldn't learn from you and me, not by a good deal—and at the end of every three or four minutes they had to stop and make a dividend—if they didn't get their jaws would, clug up so that they couldn't get the nine-syllabled ones out at all—and when the wind was done blowing they closed up just a little over sixteen hundred dollars apiece. I know these facts to be absolutely true, because I got them from a man whose mother I knew personally. I do not suppose a person could buy a water privilege at Calistoga now at any price; but several good locations along the course of the Calicut Canon Gold-bearing Trade-Wind are for sale. They are going to be stocked for the New York market. They will sell, too; the people will swarm for them as thick as Hancock veterans—in the South.

MARK TWAIN.

Hartford, Conn., September 14, 1880.

LOCAL NOTES.

—The subscriptions to the Osorio monument fund have reached a total of 107,163\$720.

—A telegram from Valparaiso on the 17th inst. announces the arrival of the corvet *Vin de Olin* at that port.

—Decree 3,021, of the 11th inst., sanctions the supplementary credit of 253,235\$785 recently voted by the General Assembly.

—The increasing frequency of robberies and burglaries in this city should lead to greater precautions on the part of business men. As the junes seem inclined to solve every fiscal quandary, the only recourse left is to deal with the case without reference to judicial traveles.

—A sailor, named Richard Seymour, fell to the quarter deck from one of the minims yards of the British steamer *Bleu* on the 16th inst., and was instantly killed.

—Decree 3,022, of the 12th inst., sanctions the extraordinary credit of 1,352,483\$740 recently voted by the General Assembly for the emancipation of the remaining state colonies.

—A business house in this city recently received 50 Ypiranga lottery-tickets for its customers. An examination of the tickets developed the fact that there were two whole tickets of the number 425,254. A lottery director from São Paulo then came down and cancelled one of the duplicates.

—Through the present distribution of the emancipation fund, aided by donations and the savings (*peculado*) of slaves, 300 slaves will soon be liberated in this city. The classification was finished on the 9th inst.

—A murder occurred at the Saco do Alferes on the evening of the 14th. The crime was committed by a Paraguayan, named José Esteves, and the victim was a free black named Joaquim de Freitas. The murderer was captured. The crime was committed before the eyes of many spectators, not one of whom offered to save the victim's life.

—Decree No. 3,019, of the 9th inst., sanctions the authorization recently passed by the General Assembly by which city of Rio de Janeiro is permitted to borrow 1,700,000\$ for the funding of its street-paving. The bill forbids the issue of bonds below their nominal value, and the payment of more than five per cent. interest.

—A private telegram from Santos on the 16th states that the extra tax of 1/4 per cent. on foreign goods reshipped from one Brazilian port to another is still levied at the custom house there. The excuse is that the customs authorities have not been advised of the change by the São Paulo sub-treasury. The decree revoking the tax was published on the 9th inst.

—Notification was served upon all vessels in the Praia do Peixe anchorage on the 17th inst., that they must move to the new anchorage between the Villegaignon and Ilha dos Ratons within twenty-four hours. This step is a precautionary measure against the sanitary evils arising from the crowded state of the shipping in this anchorage during the hot season.

—In the deficiency credit asked by the minister of finance on the 11th inst. appears an item of 42,400\$ for surveys of lands not built upon in this city. It was proposed to levy a tax of 20 reis per square metre on such lands by the late financial statesman, Affonso Celso, but the tax was abolished in the last Budget and the country is now asked to pay for the theory.

—As a resident of Niterói was entering a railway car at the Dom Pedro II station, on the 13th inst., he was jostled by two suspicious looking individuals who at once disappeared. He discovered soon after that a package containing 3,000\$ had been taken from his pocket, and that the men whom he encountered on the platform were two of the most noted thieves in the city.

—The deportation of *capangas* still continues, nearly all of them going to the River Plate. The unloading of criminals upon a neighboring state is a novel proceeding at this age of the world, and there are probably but very few civilized countries which would submit to it. That the Platine republics do not resent the affront is certainly a strong proof of their good will and peaceable intentions.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The October receipts of the Ceará custom house were 121,965\$73.

—The October receipts of the Maranhão custom house were 272,234\$55. The receipts of the provincial treasury were 55,475\$715.

—Inroads of the Carajás Indians are reported from the Rio Ningu, province of Pará. Several whites have been lately killed by them.

—The October returns of the new street railway of Fortaleza, Ceará, amounted to 2,894\$80. The number of passengers carried was 21,980.

—Drouth is reported from various interior localities of the province of Bahia. In some places the cattle are dying and the plantations are raised.

—A project has been introduced into the Amazonas provincial assembly guaranteeing 7 per cent. on a capital of 500,000 invested in a banking institution.

—A controversy has broken out between the president and provincial assembly of the Amazonas as to how the surplus moneys in the treasury shall be spent.

—In response to the inquiry whether the republicans are also abolitionists, the *Provincia do São Paulo* says that "every republican is an abolitionist."

—A slave committed suicide one day last month in the district of Paracatu, Pernambuco, in a sugar mill by throwing himself into a cañon of boiling molasses.

—For the year 1881-82 the receipts of the provincial treasury of Minas Geraes are estimated at 2,635,660\$ and the authorized expenditures are 2,635,432\$494.

—The October receipts of the Bahia custom house were 925,589\$90 for the imperial treasury, and 50,994\$99 for the province. The internal revenue returns were 123,020\$94.

—Alexandre José da Silva was one of a party of vagabonds and disreputable characters at Campinas on the night of the 14th inst. An inquest was held over his remains on the following day.

—The October receipts of the Pará custom house were 615,995\$19, or 129,250\$86 in excess of the September receipts. The October receipts of 1879 were 372,746\$246 of 1878, 370,156\$862, of 1877, 292,836\$692.

—The new budget of Minas Geraes imposes a tax of 10 per cent. on the fares of all railways authorized by the province. The tax is to be collected directly from the companies, who are authorized to elevate their rates accordingly.

—An overseer on the plantation of Dr. Augusto Pereira, near Campinas, São Paulo, was recently assassinated by slaves. The local papers state very modestly that he had acted "unprudently" at the time, which probably occasioned the crime.

—The Rio Grande press looks upon a difficulty with the Argentine Republic as an event of the near future. In that province it is believed that General Rosca is inimical to Brazil, and that the recent activity in procuring munitions of war means mischief.

—The open sale of Ypiranga lottery tickets at São Paulo has been attended with so much banter on the part of an eager multitude of people that a force of soldiers and a fire engine have been kept constantly at hand. Of the two the fire engine seems to be the most effective.

—By the present distribution of the emancipation fund 16 slaves have been freed in Nova Friburgo at a total expenditure of 16,350\$. The quota for that place was 16,327\$800, the remaining 22\$200 being the amount of savings of one slave which was added to the fund to secure his freedom.

—Mail advices from Maranhão state that when a steamer reached the lately-wrecked British brig *Haines*, near the São Anna lighthouse, the vessel was already broken up and a part of the cargo had been stolen. A small part only of the cargo was saved, and much of that was taken away from the thieves.

—As a contribution to the discussion between Pelotas and Rio Grande relative to the location of a custom house at the former place, the commercial association of Pelotas has issued a circular in which it is shown that the shipping arrivals there from January 1 to August 31 were 55, that the shipments into the interior during 1879-80 amounted to 6,053 wagon loads, and that the export of domestic products amounted to 14,366,358\$400 in value in 1878-79 and to 12,344,782\$200 in 1879-80.

—On the evening of the 16th inst. Antonio A. de Oliveira Matos was attacked in Petropolis by an unnamed person who gave him a severe beating and inflicted several wounds upon him. The aggressor was armed with a scythe with which he cut off one of his victim's ears. The latter had his arm broken in two places and was left for dead. The aggressor was afterwards captured after a stout resistance. The amputated ear was found in his pocket. The cause of the assault is not under dispute. Matos is a young man residing in Petropolis where he was recently elected an alderman and justice of the peace.

—According to the *Correio Mercantil*, of Pelotas, three free children are held as slaves in the district of Boqueirão. The mother was a free black who came from Uruguay in 1842, but who gradually drifted into slavery. Her three children were held as slaves by one Delphinio do Amaral, one of which has been sold for Rio de Janeiro. The freedom of the mother was confirmed by a judicial decision some eight or ten years ago. The authorities have been induced to look into the case, and a guardian has been appointed for the children. The question now is—will the government punish this Delphinio do Amaral for reducing three free persons to slavery?

The total value of exports from the United States during the fiscal year 1879-80 was \$824,000,000, of which \$680,227,677, or about 82½ per cent., consisted of agricultural products.

RAILROAD NOTES.

—A meeting of the Sorocabana share-holders is called to meet in this city on the 4th proximo.

—The Paulista company has called for tenders for making the road bed for a branch from Porto de João Ferreira to Belém do Descalvado.

—The shortest and most profitable railway in the world is at Coney Island, New York. It is 2,000 feet long, and paid 500 per cent. profit last year.

—The October receipts of the Santo Antonio de Paulina line were 16,464\$86. The number of passengers carried was 1,618, and the freight traffic amounted to 191.9 tons of coffee and 687.9 tons of merchandise.

—The inauguration of the section between Alagoas and Serrinha of the "Bahia a São Francisco" railway was inaugurated on the 18th inst. Although the line has been ready for months, the inauguration was made the subject of a telegram.

—The September receipts of the Dom Pedro II railway were 1,359,845\$634, against 946,818\$980 during the same month of 1879. The number of passengers carried was 212,888, of which 154,418½ were second class. The coffee traffic amounted to 12,993 tons.

—The total railway extension of Europe and the United States is given by the *London Railway Atlas* as 190,700 miles, of which 102,700 miles are in Europe and 88,000 miles in the United States. The total capital invested is roughly estimated at £4,000,000,000.

—Decree 7,895, of the 12th inst., authorizes the construction of a railway from Macaé to Villa da Imperatriz, province of Alagoas. The work must be begun within six months from the approval of the company's statutes, and must be completed within two years. A guarantee of 7 per cent. is granted on a capital of 4,553,000\$ for a period of 30 years.

—The semi-annual report of the Mogiana railway, of São Paulo, gives the receipts of that line for the half year ending June 30 at 419,497\$850 and the expenditures at 220,914\$885, leaving a net surplus of 198,582\$965. This shows an increase of some 15,000\$ over the receipts of the same period of 1879, and a decrease of some 58,000\$ in the expenditures. The number of passengers carried was 48,394, and the freight traffic aggregated 15,417.9 tons.

—A correspondence of the *Provincia de São Paulo*, far whose knowledge of the facts and figures have full confidence, writes to that journal on the 18th inst., and complains of the insufficient protection to coffee afforded by the Paulista and São Paulo railway companies. He states that during transit from interior stations to Santos large quantities of coffee are regularly stolen, as proved by the difference in weight. The losses are serious to shippers and better precautions should be taken to prevent them.

—The Rio Verde company has met with a very flattering success in London in raising capital for the construction of that road. The authorized capital is 21,000,000 to be covered by 50,000 shares, but the articles of incorporation limited the amount to be raised at the outset to 2,150,000 in 22,500 shares. On opening the books with the National Provincial Bank of England, 8,014 shares were at once subscribed for nearly four times the number to be issued. The line has an interest guarantee of 7 per cent. per annum. We are informed that Mr. James Brantley, the projector of the São Paulo railway, is the chief engineer of the line.

—The decision of the government on the appeal of Luiz Matias Maynsky against the action of the Sorocabana railway share-holders in moving the seat of the company from Sorocaba to Rio de Janeiro and in depositing him from the position of director and president, dismisses the case and affirms the legality of the course taken by the share-holders. The company is advised to call a general meeting at once to recognize the new director, and a fine of 1,000\$ is imposed for failure to record decree 5,849, of Dec. 26, 1874.

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1880

DATE	STEAMER	DESTINATION
Nov. 24	Elbe	Southampton and Havre via Bahia, Macaé, Pernambuco, St. Vincent and Lisbon.
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